

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 IO-10 NEA-10 /090 W

----- 122266

R 241145Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 581

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 2487

ADDIS FOR CALDWELL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, SU, US

SUBJ: LABOR POWER STRUGGLE

REF: A. FBIS LONDON 191919Z OCT 75 (NOTAL)

B. KHARTOUM 2215

SUMMARY: IN POWER STRUGGLE, CURRENT SWTUF LEADERSHIP
CAME OUT ON TOP. BREAK IN RELATIONS WITH U.S.
LABOR CONFIRMED, HOWEVER. WE DO NOT EXPECT THIS
SITUATION TO CHANGE IN NEAR FUTURE. END SUMMARY.

1. SUDAN WORKERS TRADE UNION FEDERATION (SWTUF)
STATEMENT OF OCTOBER 18 (REF A) INDICATES PRESIDENT
ABDALLA NASSR GINAWI, FOR PRESENT AT LEAST, HAS COME
OUT ON TOP IN STRUGGLE FOR POWER WITH GROUP HEADED
BY SEC-GEN MOHAMMED OSMAN GAMAA. ONE OF GAMAA'S
ALLIES, AL-TAYYEB KHALAFALLA, ACCOUNTANT, WAS
REMOVED FROM SWTUF'S EXECUTIVE BOARD, AND ANOTHER,
SUDAN RAILWAY WORKERS TRADE UNION PRESIDENT MOHAMMED
AL-HASSAN ABDALLA, WAS RELIEVED OF POST AS FIRST
VICE PRESIDENT, ALTHOUGH HE REMAINS ON BOARD.
GAMAA WAS NOT REMOVED FROM SEC-GEN SLOT BECAUSE,
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ACCORDING SWTUF CONSTITUTION, ONLY FULL CONFERENCE

(TO BE HELD NEXT MONTH) HAS THAT POWER. GINAWI'S VICTORY REPORTEDLY CAME AS A RESULT OF KHALAFALLA'S INABILITY PROVE ACCUSATION THAT GINAWI HAD PROFITED PERSONALLY FROM SWTUF'S RESTAURANT OPERATIONS (REF B).

2. THERE ARE RUMORS THAT GINAWI-GAMAA STRUGGLE IN FACT REFLECTS DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SSU DEPUTY SEC-GEN ABUL GASSIM MOHAMMED IBRAHIM, WHO BACKS GAMAA, AND SPEAKER OF PEOPLES ASSEMBLY (AND SSU ASSISTANT SEC-GEN) AL-RASHID AL-TAHIR, WHO BACKS GINAWI. IN VIEW POLITICIZATION OF SWTUF, SUCH SHADOW-BOXING WOULD NOT BE SURPRISING. IF RUMORS ARE TRUE, HOWEVER, REGIME IS ATTEMPTING TO COVER UP SITUATION: COMMENTARY IN OCT. 19 AL-AYAM TRACES CURRENT SWTUF PROBLEMS TO INHERITED "SHORTCOMINGS OF THE POLITICAL ORGANIZATION" AND CALLS ON "PRESENT LEADERSHIP OF WORKERS...TO DISENGAGE FROM THE PAST AND TURN INTO THE PATH OF THE REVOLUTION."

3. PROBLEMS WITHIN SWTUF MAY NOT BE OVER. ELECTIONS ARE NOW UNDERWAY IN SUDAN'S 37 UNIONS AND, IN NOVEMBER, GENERAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD TO ELECT NEW CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND SWTUF LEADERSHIP. AFTER GINAWI'S CLEAR VICTORY THIS ROUND, AND GIVEN CLEAR LIMITS ON AUTONOMY OF LABOR MOVEMENT, IT WOULD BE SURPRISING IF NOVEMBER RESULT TURNED OUT TO BE ANY DIFFERENT.

4. OCT. 18 STATEMENT NOTABLY DID NOT ALTER CURRENT SWTUF POSTURE TOWARD US LABOR. INDEED, CENTRAL COMMITTEE APPROVED DECISION TO BREAK RELATIONS IN PROTEST AGAINST US LABOR DELEGATION'S ATTITUDE TOWARD PLO AT GENEVA CONFERENCE. BY WAY OF ABSOLVING GINAWI OF PERSONAL BLAME, STATEMENT RECALLS THAT HIS VISIT TO US IN 1974 WAS INITIATIVE APPROVED BY ENTIRE CENTRAL COMMITTEE IN FURTHERANCE OF SWTUF'S "OPEN DOOR" POLICY; GINAWI PERSONALLY COULD NOT BE HELD RESPONSIBLE IF THAT POLICY DID NOT WORK OUT IN THIS SPECIFIC CASE.

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5. COMMENT: SEEDLING OF US/SUDANESE LABOR RELATIONS APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN SEARED BY HOT WINDS OF MIDDLE EAST POLITICS. SINCE SWTUF HAS NO DOUBT DISAPPOINTED ANYHOW OVER LEVEL OF ASSISTANCE AALC COULD PROVIDE (KHARTOUM 1130), WE WOULD BE SURPRISED IF ANY ATTEMPT IS MADE TO CHANGE STATUS QUO IN NEAR FUTURE.

BREWER

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